

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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EB-11 RSR-01 /096 W

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R 162110Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6888

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 WELLINGTON 1825

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NZ, CH

SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN GNZ/PRC RELATIONS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: WELLINGTON 938

1. SUMMARY. GNZ/PRC RELATIONS HAVE DEVELOPED AMICABLY AND MORE RAPIDLY THAN EXPECTED OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS. THERE HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN DIFFICULTIES AS YET UNRESOLVED AND MFA EXPERTS FEEL HONEYMOON SPIRIT MAY BE ON THE WANE. END SUMMARY.

2. ACTION REQUESTED. INFORMATION IS SOUGHT AS TO POSSIBILITY THAT FINA (INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING FEDERATION LOCATED IN WASHINGTON) MIGHT RELAX RESTRICTIONS ON MEMBERS VISITING PRC. ASSESSMENT OF LANGUAGE INSTITUTE IN PEKING ALSO SOUGHT.

3. ONE OF THE FIRST DIPLOMATIC MOVES OF THE KIRK
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GOVERNMENT WAS RECOGNITION OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF

CHINA. EVEN SO, IT WAS NEITHER KIRK'S NOR MFA EXPECTATION THAT GNZ WOULD ESTABLISH MISSION IN PEKING DURING FIRST HALF OF KIRK ADMINISTRATION NOR BEFORE GNZ OPENED MOSCOW MISSION. HOWEVER, DURING MINISTER WALDING'S MARCH VISIT TO PEKING (REFTEL) PRC OFFER OF IMMEDIATE QUARTERS FOR NZ EMBASSY SET IN MOTION ACTIONS WHICH SPED PROCESS AND RESULTED IN PRC ESTABLISHING EMBASSY IN WELLINGTON IN MID-MAY AND NZ AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE BRYCE HARLAND EXPECTED IN PEKING BY EARLY SEPTEMBER.

4. IN REVIEW WITH HARLAND OF DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS TO DATE, HE TOLD POLOFF THAT GENERALLY THINGS HAVE BEEN PRETTY MUCH SWEETNESS AND LIGHT. WALDING'S RECEPTION IN PEKING, OFFER OF ADEQUATE AND IMMEDIATE HOUSING AND OFFICE SPACE AND SPEED WITH WHICH PRC AMBASSADOR ARRIVED NZ GREATLY IMPRESSED GNZ AND HAS CONVINCED GNZ FROM KIRK ON DOWN THAT NZ IS RESPECTED BY PRC AND, THOUGH SMALL, HAS ROLE TO PLAY. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, SOME PROBLEMS WHICH ARE CAUSING DIFFICULTIES AND IN ONE OR TWO CASES MAY BE FEEDING ON EACH OTHER.

5. HOUSING. A. THE BIGGEST PROBLEM OF THE CHINESE IN WELLINGTON HAS BEEN IN FINDING SUITABLE QUARTERS FOR A CHANCERY AND HOUSING. AFTER MUCH SPECULATION AND WITH EVERY REAL ESTATE AGENT IN TOWN LICKING HIS CHOPS OVER THE COMMISSION ON WHAT WAS RUMORED TO BE A MILLION DOLLAR DEAL, IT WAS ANNOUNCED A FEW WEEKS AGO THAT THE PRC WAS TO PURCHASE AN ENTIRE APARTMENT HOTEL FOR THEIR NEEDS.

B. AN IMMEDIATE SNAG AROSE. THE AREA IS NOT ZONED FOR OFFICE SPACE AND, BY STATUTE, THE CITY COUNCIL MUST BE PETITIONED FOR A CHANGE. THE CHINESE HAVE SIMPLY BEEN UNABLE TO ACCEPT THAT GNZ CAN'T STEP IN AND MAKE ALL THIS RIGHT. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE MFA HAS LITTLE LEVERAGE WITH THE CITY FATHERS AND HAS EVEN FAILED IN AN ATTEMPT TO HAVE THE HEARING SPEEDED UP. IT IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST WITH AT LEAST TWO PUBLIC OBJECTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED. MFA LAWYERS FEEL THE OBJECTIONS CAN BE OVERCOME, BUT THE WHOLE THING IS A SOURCE OF EMBARRASSMENT

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TO THE GNZ AND IRRITATION AND SUSPICION TO THE CHINESE. THIS PROBLEM MAY BE A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO GROWING OBFUSCATION OVER GNZ SENDING AIRCRAFT TO PEKING.

6. AIRCRAFT. IT IS GNZ PLAN TO SEND AN RNZAF HERCULES TO PEKING IN LATE JULY WITH FURNISHINGS FOR NEW EMBASSY TOGETHER WITH DECORATOR AND WORKMEN TO SET THEM UP. (A MOCKUP OF THE EMBASSY INTERIOR HAS BEEN MADE

WHICH WILL BE DISMANTLED AND FLOWN TO PEKING.) PRC HAS SAID ALL ALONG IT HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THIS PLAN IN PRINCIPLE. RECENTLY, THOUGH, WHEN NZ CHARGE IN PEKING, JOHN CARTER, TRIED TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF FLIGHT, CHINESE REACTED WITH SURPRISE THAT AIR FORCE PLANE WAS INVOLVED (WHICH THEY HAVE KNOWN FROM THE OUTSET) AND EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT MILITARY PLANE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO COME IN. WHILE THIS MAY SIMPLY BE A GAMBIT IN RETALIATION FOR THE WELLINGTON HOUSING PROBLEM, IT IS BEGINNING TO CAUSE CONCERN. IF THE FLIGHT FALLS THROUGH, THE ALTERNATE PLAN IS TO FLY THE FURNISHINGS TO HONG KONG, THENCE VIA RAIL TO PEKING; SETTING BACK THE TIMETABLE BY AT LEAST TWO WEEKS.

7. VISITS. A. ON A BRIGHTER NOTE, PRC MINISTER OF TRADE, PAI HSIANG-KUO, HAS ACCEPTEED WALDING'S INVITATION TO VISIT NEW ZEALAND AND IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE WITH AN ENTOURAGE OF 10 FOR A WEEK'S STAY BEGINNING JULY 27. VISIT WILL INCLUDE EXTENSIVE TOURING OF BOTH ISLANDS PLUS MEETINGS WITH GNZ OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF PROPOSED SEPTEMBER NZ TRADE MISSION TO PRC.

B. A VISIT FROM A QUOTE CHINA FRIENDSHIP GROUP UNQUOTE MATERIALIZED OUT OF THE BLUE, ACCORDING TO HARLAND, WITH A GROUP OF 17 CHINESE QUOTE TOURISTS UNQUOTE ARRIVING ON JULY 15 AT THE INVITATION OF THE NEW ZEALAND-CHINA SOCIETY. GNZ OFFICIALS LEARNED OF THE TRIP ONLY A SHORT TIME BEFORE; THE VISIT BEING AN OUTCOME OF INITIATIVES TAKEN MONTHS AGO BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. THE GROUP

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 WELLINGTON 1825

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

IS LED BY YUEH TAI-HENG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE CHINA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICE. DEPUTY LEADER IS A KANG KAI, NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED. ALTHOUGH THE VISITORS INCLUDE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, THE GNZ IS KEEPING ITS DISTANCE AND WILL ONLY BE INVOLVED TO THE EXTENT OF HOSTING A RECEPTION AS WAS THE CASE WITH A VISITING PING PONG TEAM SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. GNZ WILL DEMONSTRATE ITS GOODWILL DURING TRADE MINISTER'S VISIT.

C. A CANTON ACROBATIC TROUPE IS SET FOR A THREE WEEK VISIT AFTER SOME INITIAL PROBLEMS; THE GNZ HAS NEVER GOTTEN INVOLVED IN CULTURAL PROGRAMMING AND THERE IS NO EXPERTISE IN MFA FOR DEALING WITH SUCH AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, THE CHINESE INSISTED THAT DETAILS BE HANDLED BY GNZ RATHER THAN A COMMERCIAL BOOKING AGENT, SO MFA IS NOW IN THE ACTS AND THE TOUR IS ON.

D. FOR THEIR PART, GNZ IS HAVING A DIFFICULT TIME IN FINDING A RECIPROCAL GROUP. HARLAND NOTED NZ PING PONG
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PLAYERS VERY POOR. THE PRC HAS ASKED FOR SWIMMERS, BUT THE INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING FEDERATION (FINA) WON'T ALLOW THIS SINCE TAIWAN, AND NOT PRC, IS A MEMBER. HARLAND WONDERS IF EA/PRCM OR CU MIGHT BE ABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER FINA COULD BE PERSUADED TO RELAX ITS REGULATIONS? SWIMMING ASIDE, THERE ARE FEW SPORTS WHICH ARE PLAYED IN BOTH COUNTRIES IN WHICH NEW ZEALAND CAN MAKE ANY SORT OF INTERNATIONAL SHOWING. AS THINGS STAND, IF THE SWIMMING CANNOT BE WORKED OUT, A PING PONG TEAM WILL PROBABLY BE OFFERED UP.

E. PRIVATE CITIZENS, INDIVIDUALLY AND IN GROUPS, ARE SEEKING MFA ASSISTANCE IN NEGOTIATING AND PLANNING TRIPS TO CHINA, BUT THE MINISTRY IS RESISTING PRESSURE TO GET INVOLVED.

8. EXCHANGES. THE PRC IS SENDING TWO OR THREE STUDENT TRANSLATORS TO WELLINGTON TO STUDY ENGLISH AT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PRC HAS OFFERED TO

ACCOMMODATE NEW ZEALAND STUDENTS AT THE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE IN PEKING. PRIME MINISTER KIRK WANTS MFA AND OTHER GNZ OFFICIALS TO ATTEND AS GUINEA PIGS, RATHER THAN STUDENTS, FOR POLITICAL REASONS. MFA HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET AN ASSESSMENT ON THE QUALITY AND TYPE OF ENROLLMENT OF THE INSTITUTE AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY APPRAISAL WHICH ADDRESSEES MIGHT PROVIDE.

9. IN REVIEWING EVENTS OF PAST FEW MONTHS HARLAND HAS DISTINCT FEELING THAT HONEYMOON SPIRIT IS OVER, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE A REBIRTH RESULTING FROM TRADE MINISTER'S VISIT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF MISSION IN PEKING. HARLAND SEES THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ZEALAND MARKETS AS HIS FIRST PRIORITY TASK AS AMBASSADOR, BUT EXPECTS NOTHING SPECTACULAR IN THE SHORT TERM.
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